



California's Child Care Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Youth

CHILD DEVELOPMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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SCOPE OF THE ISSUE

Teenage pregnancy has become the focus of both national and state-wide discussion. Consider the following California statistics:

- In 1995, there were 200,024 pregnant and parenting teen mothers age 19 years or younger. Of these, 123,240 were 18 years and younger.
- Approximately one in eight births is to a teenage mother.
- Young women 15 years and under represent the fastest growing age group of pregnant teens.
- Teen mothers are at a greater risk of living in poverty and are less likely to finish high school.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD CARE

As there are many risks and high public costs associated with childbearing to teen mothers, it is imperative to provide interventions which will increase life options for young parents and enhance the development of their children. Child care is one of the critical supportive services necessary for enabling young parents, both mothers and fathers, to remain in school. A quality child care center located on or near the school campus will allow the young parents to achieve a high school diploma or its equivalent and learn positive parenting skills, as well as provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children. Children of poor, young parents are at greater risk in terms of their own physical, intellectual, and social development.

"Without child care and without transportation, these young people will not stay in school. It is the most important piece of any type of support services that we can provide these students."

Bev Short, Principal, Sierra Nueva High School

CHILD CARE PROGRAMS FOR TEEN PARENTS

The State administers several programs targeting teen parents. The programs listed are ones which offer a child care component. However, many schools and other local agencies often respond to the needs of teen parents by initiating programs within their own local communities.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

School Age Parenting and Infant Development (SAPID): Administered by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division (CDE/CDD), SAPID assists children of teen parents and teen parents in grades 7 through 12. The programs has two components.

- ^a The **education component** offers classes in parenting education and opportunities for high school completion and career development-open to all students in high school: and
- The **child care and development component** provides the children of teen parents with educational stimulation, health screening, and treatment for the child's physical and emotional needs at locations on or near the parent's school campus. Parenting teens are given the opportunity to apply basic child development techniques to their child in a child care and development setting.

There is no age limit or income criteria for participation in the program as long as the pregnant or parenting student is enrolled in school and working towards a diploma. Over \$7.5 million was distributed during the 1994-95 fiscal year to local education agencies to operate the SAPID program. Sixty-two agencies administering SAPID offer child care as one component of the program. In 1994-95, the program served approximately 1,864 pregnant or parenting teens and an estimated 1,500 infants/toddlers in subsidized child care.

Pregnant Minor Program (PMP) In 1995-96, the PMP, administered by the California Department of Education, was implemented by 14 county offices of education in 82 school sites. An eligible student is under age 21 years, has a written pregnancy verification, and has not graduated from high school. The PMP receives a higher revenue limit in order to provide both an academic program and necessary supportive services. Approximately 75% of the PMP sites report providing infant care to eligible students.

Student participation is limited to the semester in which the mother delivers, but with approval, she may continue in the PMP through the next semester. At that time, the student is transferred into a program such as SAPID which targets teen parents, into another alternative education program, or into the mainstream education system. The 14 county offices of education administering the PMP claimed \$19.3 million in state funding for FY 1995-96.

Subsidized Child Care Programs: Although not specifically designated for parenting teens, the California Department of Education administers other child care programs that eligible teens can utilize. CDE subsidized child care and development programs simultaneously provide child care services for low-income families and a quality developmental environment for enrolled children. CDE administered approximately \$570 million in subsidized child care programs in the 1994-95 fiscal year,